



SOC-345-M01 The Sociology of Development: Latin America

Spring Semester 2009
Tuesday and Thursday 17-18.15h

Instructor: Susana Vázquez, PhD
Office hours: Thursday 16-17h
E-mail: svazque2@slu.edu

Description and Objectives

The course introduces students to the subject of Sociology of Development in Latin America. Some countries have developed at different rates than others and, as a result, there are marked differences between those located in the so-called 'South' ('developing world') and those in the so-called 'North' ('developed world'). While discussing the main theories of development (paradigms), established to explain the different patterns of development across the world, the aim of the subject is also to lead students into key issues that provide the basis for understanding the nature of development in Latin America and, at the same time, examine how development problems have been addressed at national and international level.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students are encouraged to attend the classes and participate in the discussions. Additional material may be given to the students to be discussed in the classroom. Though the attendance is not mandatory, the presence and participation in class activities will have a positive effect in the overall evaluation of the course.

Students are required to submit an essay (approximately 10 pages) and give an oral presentation in the classroom. The topic can be freely chosen by the students but must be approved by the professor after evaluating an outline of the research project (approximately 1 page). Guidelines about presenting and submitting the essay will be given in class.

The final course grade will be based on:

- a mid-term exam (25% of overall mark)
- a second mid-term exam (25% of overall mark)
- a written essay and oral presentation in class (40% of overall mark)
- class attendance and participation in discussions (10% of overall mark)

Text book

Kirby, P. (2006) Introduction to Latin America (USA: Waveland Press, 3rd Edition)

Important dates

First mid-term exam: **19 February (Tuesday)**

Second mid-term exam: **26 March (Thursday)**

Final draft of the research essay: **6 May (Wednesday) - Final Exam**

Outline of the course schedule

1. Introduction
2. What are the ‘underdeveloped world’, the ‘Third World’ and the ‘South’? What is development? - Defining, conceptualising and measuring development
3. Theories of development: Modernization, Dependency and World systems theories
4. Theories of development: Neo-Liberal approaches and post-development
5. Documentary: “*In favor of globalization*” by Johan Norberg
6. Globalization and development
7. Poverty, development and hunger
8. United Nations Millennium Declaration: What are the Millennium Development Goals?
9. *Regionalization: MERCOSUR and NAFTA*
10. Migratory patterns and development
11. Human Rights, cooperation and development
12. *Democracy and Latin America: Unity versus Diversity*
13. Inequality, Gender and development
14. Rethinking the development agenda?

Academic integrity, honesty and plagiarism

“The University is a community of learning, whose effectiveness requires an environment of mutual trust and integrity. Academic integrity is violated by any dishonesty such as soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of work submitted toward academic credit. While not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, examples include copying from another student, copying from a book or class notes during a closed book exam, submitting materials authored by or revised by another person as the student’s own work, copying a passage or text directly from a published source without appropriately citing or recognizing that source, taking a test or doing an assignment or other academic work for another student, securing or supplying in advance a copy of an examination without the knowledge or consent of the instructor, and colluding with another student or students to engage in academic dishonesty”

“Any clear violation of academic integrity will be met with appropriate sanctions. Possible sanctions for violation of academic integrity may include, but are not limited to, assignment of a failing grade in a course, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University”

Students can review the College of Arts and Sciences policy on Academic Honesty, which can be accessed on-line at <http://www.slu.edu/colleges/AS/> under “Quicklinks for Students” or in hard copy form in the Arts and Sciences Policy Binder in each departmental or College office.